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2,8,10 and 11.

Meet the Red  
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Merida, movie  
review ...  
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The Man who  
made P.T.Usha  
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The legend who  
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Remo,  
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and Vaibhavi  
dance to his  
tunes... turn to  
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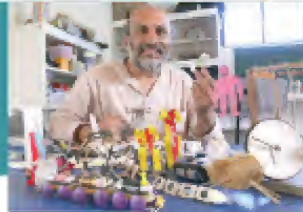
Chocolate  
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girl who weighs  
40 kg lifts  
350kg weight  
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# ARVIND GUPTA TOYS FROM TRASH







## Toy Story

It is not every day that you get to hear about an IIT Kharagpur alumni who shunned his well paying Telco job to empower children across all incomes. His motto - to make education and science accessible to all and what better way than through toys. So I decided to wear my wings and fly away to Pune! If the 3 R's- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, complements the ya!style and we have found just the man to dress our cover page. A toy maker, a writer, a science enthusiast, an engineer, a bibliophile - a few ways in which people recognize Arvind Gupta.

His approach is simple, any worn out everyday item can be transformed into a fun learning aid all it requires is a dollop of creativity, pinge of imagination and hearty helping of vision. Meet our trash to toy maker who greets ME (Prachi) saying "What use is a toy if it cannot be bought apart and re-discovered".

### What does the inventor's room have?

An array of colourful objects peeping out of the shelves. The room is strewn with broken rubber slippers, waste paper cups, plastic bags and bottles, tetra packs, old dried up ball pen, felt pens, old pen refills, ice cream sticks picked up from the road, match boxes, broom sticks, old magazines cut into squares, paper clips, pins nails, kinds of magnets and more. One man's clutter my raw materials for creation.

### Tells us about your toys.

On our website [www.arvindguptatoys.com](http://www.arvindguptatoys.com) you'll find more than 10,000 toys, all arranged in different categories like 'amazing astronomy', 'pumps for the dumps', 'Math magic', 'paper fun', 'tipping topping fun', 'motor and generators' and more. The toys serve as a learning aid and introduce to the child different concepts of science. My treasured toys are match stick mechano (made from cycle tube valve) and Levitating pencil (old magnet, string and pencil). We have made close to 10000 plus toys, 2700 films on the net, over 7 million you tube followers, books

translated in 17 languages and the latest country to join my club is China. All our projects are put up for free in the public domain cutting across continents and reaching the children from low-income households. As a child I got a British mechano steel strip gift sets and I would spend hours on it, I have still not out grown my mechano set (Smiles). Making something with my hands, applying knowledge and having a toy to play with made me appreciate how everything can be made into something.

### Guiding thought that burns the night oil.

We are living in a consumerist society. Everything is bought, used once and discarded. It's all about instant gratification. How will a young child's mind be able to learn, discover and grow unless they are not allowed to explore with what they have! We have taken the worst from the West to become a sustainable nation we need to put our junk and clutter to good use, that is the clairvoyance of today's era.

### What scientific principles are our toys based on?

Science is a scary subject that haunts students in school. Reason is in the redundant and

faulty method of teaching. My attempt is to introduce science to children in an interactive way. When they apply science to their toy making they grow, reason and remember. The toy costs nothing and joy is boundless, give them wings to fly while teaching them to be rooted. For example a motor that is used in all houses can actually be made within ten minutes! Or a used plastic straw can actually make a great flute. Take a used plastic straw, cut holes with pencil points and as you cut it shorter and blow, it will play out all the 7 notes of music for you! My vote goes to Newton's third law (every action has an equal and opposite reaction) which is most commonly applied in making toys.

### What has been your weirdest invention?

This is made out of bottles it can negotiate, wheel of different sizes and moves in a weird fashion. One liter plastic body is the main body and different sides of button caps so they lean and when it moves it almost wriggles. I really had fun making this one.

[www.arvindguptatoys.com](http://www.arvindguptatoys.com)

Toy making workshops are conducted every Tuesday to Thursday, free for all

Go get your cartons, pencils, pen refills and let's make some toys for ourselves!

